

RE CRITIQUE OF SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM 1973

BY [] -- FBIS/ELAD/EEB

Processing

Unfortunately I have to start off with my main criticism, without being able to provide what I would consider after having seen the Agency operate/a viable alternative.

My personal history statement et al. was in the hands of the Agency by January 15. I was notified of receipt of latter within days, but then was kept hanging in the air literally until June 13, five months later.

I was asked to visit the Agency for interviews, medical tests etc. at the beginning of May without any indication at that time whether or not I would actually be accepted. It is truly an agonizing waiting period, especially if you have other job offers and must make a decision. Maybe one could cut some of the red tape, reams of it, especially since the program only lasts three months and the interns should really come "on board" as early as possible. In my case my medical clearance was given me inofficially in late May by the doctor on duty at Ames on May 21. But medical clearance then - as I understand the bureaucratic system within the Agency - had to go over several desks before it reached its final destination, [] office.

If you are interested in getting a high calibre of interns in the competition for summer jobs I believe a way can be found to take away some of the obstacles, which cause time delays, thus preventing applicants from dropping out because they can not wait any longer and have to make a decision.

In respect to recruitment, a bit less secrecy will in the long run create a more favorable or at least indifferent climate. I think in this respect the trend of opening up some aspects of the Agency is in my view a positive one and important for attracting the type of people you should be and are interested in.

Entrance on Duty

Upon EOD I was given a brief overview of the operations of my office and its place within the component FBIS. However, it was up to my own initiative on August 3 to ask for a more detailed introduction to the different parts. The moment I hinted at a lack of interest on the part of the FBIS-hierarchy an avalanche of briefings crashed on me - some also to the benefit of other interns.

- 2 -

Work Assignment

I was given a wide variety of jobs ranging from newspaper scanning (NEUES DEUTSCHLAND etc) to translation of secret documents. The tasks were routine as well as highly sensitive and fascinating in their challenge, both in substance and linguistically. No complaints whatsoever.

Treatment in Office

I have great appreciation for the support I received from everyone in my office (FBIS/ELAD/EEB East Germany). And still I was extremely puzzled to see a Senior Linguist -- formerly the EPB branch manager -- in the East Germany and Poland office without any knowledge of German or Polish to speak of. So while I met with extreme responsiveness from all I was often surprised to see the helplessness with which the Senior linguist managed the office and its affairs. What a contrast to my supervisor, a man of enormous expertise in the relevant area, truly the spiritus rector of the office.

Briefings

The briefings were all well organized and definitely a most valuable component of the whole program. It would be unfair to critique any individuals, since undoubtedly some are better briefers than others, but all are without doubt tops in their field and were able to give us a picture of some of their work, part of a big puzzle we are trying to put together this summer -- the "what really is CIA-puzzle" ...

Unfortunately, I feel that at least three parts of the puzzle were missing: OER should be included, especially because of the Agency's increasing role in the government's economic research. FBIS should have been included, if only to give all interns (those in FBIS -- see above -- never even got a briefing or not until late in the game upon request) an exposure to the type of material FBIS publishes, some quite valuable for academic research. Thirdly, I had several contacts with DDO personnel and find a briefing is an absolute must for next year -- even if the DDO is promoted next June, it should not be too difficult to find someone to enlighten the Summer Interns and correct the false idea most of us have of DDO-activities.

My Plans

I have never hesitated to look at the Agency in most favorable terms in respect to a career. And, without a doubt, I am still strongly in favor of such a liaison. However, I intend to leave the Agency at the end of this summer to return to Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies to complete work on a M.A. in International Economics with concentrations in African Studies and International Law. Then I hope

to work overseas for a few years (two or three) to then return to the Agency with a knapsack of experience valuable both to the possible type of work facing me at the Agency and also just to myself.

August 7, 1973



STAT